

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 HALIFA 00222 081806Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /023 W
-----044119 081808Z /64

P 081700Z MAY 78
FM AMCONSUL HALIFAX
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2148
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

UNCLAS HALIFAX 0222

E O 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, CA
SUBJECT: NEW BRUNSWICK LIBERALS ELECT NEW PROVINCIAL LEADER

1. JOSEPH Z DAIGLE, Q.C., 43 YEAR OLD LAWYER AND MLA FOR KENT NORTH, WAS ELECTED AS LEADER OF NEW BRUNSWICK LIBERAL PARTY ON THIRD BALLOT AT PROVINCIAL LIBERAL PARTY CONVENTION HELD MAY 5 AND 6 IN FREDERICTON. DAIGLE DEFEATED FIVE OTHER CONTESTANTS TO FILL POST VACATED BY RESIGNATION OF PARTY LEADER ROBERT HIGGINS IN JAN, 1978.

2. DAIGLE, AN ACADIAN, WAS BORN IN KENT COUNTY, N.B. HE RECEIVED HIS B.A. FROM ST JOSEPH S UNIVERSITY IN 1954 AND HIS LAW DEGREE FROM UNIVERSITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK IN 1958. HE RECEIVED A SCHOLARSHIP TO FRANCE AND DID POST-GRADUATE LAW STUDIES AT UNIVERSITY OF PARIS, 1958-60. HE WAS ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO N.B. PREMIER (NOW SENATOR) LOUIS J ROBICHAUD, 1960-62. HE LEFT THAT POSITION AND ESTABLISHED IN 1962 HIS LAW PRACTICE IN RICHIBUCTO. IN 1967, AT AGE 33, HE WAS APPOINTED AS A PROVINCIAL COURT JUDGE, THE YOUNGEST MAN TO BE SO NAMED IN NEW BRUNSWICK HISTORY. HE WAS APPOINTED IN 1970 AS DIRECTOR OF REVISION AND TRANSLATION OF THE N.B. LAW STATUTES, A TASK HE COMPLETED IN 1974. HE RESIGNED HIS JUDGESHIP AND WAS ELECTED IN 1974 TO THE
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 HALIFA 00222 081806Z

LEGISLATURE WITH AN OVERWHELMING MAJORITY (HIS OPPONENT LOST HIS DEPOSIT). HE HAS SINCE BEEN OPPOSITION FINANCIAL CRITIC. HE IS MARRIED, HAS FOUR CHILDREN, AND RESIDES WITH HIS FAMILY IN DIEPPE.

3. ROBERT HIGGINS, DAIGLE'S PREDECESSOR, RESIGNED LIBERAL LEADERSHIP IN JAN, 1978 FOLLOWING RELEASE OF

JUSTICE HUGHES REPORT WHICH FAILED TO SUPPORT HIS CHARGES OF INTERFERENCE BY PROVINCIAL JUSTICE DEPT. IN RCMP INVESTIGATION OF PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE PARTY FUND-RAISING ACTIVITIES (REPORTED IN HALIFAX 0046). TWELVE CANDIDATES THEN PUT THEIR NAMES FORWARD AS REPLACEMENTS FOR HIGGINS. BY DATE OF CONVENTION, FIELD HAD NARROWED TO SIX, THREE OF THEM (INCLUDING DAIGLE) FLUENTLY BILINGUAL. RACE FINALLY CAME DOWN TO CONTEST BETWEEN DAIGLE AND FREDERICTON LAWYER JOHN BRYDEN, WHO HAD RUN SECOND TO HIGGINS IN LAST LEADERSHIP ELECTION. DAIGLE WON ON THIRD BALLOT WITH 1,363 VOTES TO BRYDEN'S 899. BRYDEN THEN MOVED TO MAKE DAIGLE'S ELECTION UNANIMOUS. 2,400 DELEGATES, 1,200 ALTERNATES, AND MANY OBSERVERS ATTENDED THE CONVENTION.

4. DAIGLE, IN THE CAMPAIGN LEADING TO HIS LEADERSHIP VICTORY, GAVE A FAIRLY COMPREHENSIVE STATEMENT OF HIS VIEWS. HE SAID HE INTENDS TO BE A FULL-TIME LEADER AND CONCENTRATE HIS EFFORTS ON JOB CREATION, THE ECONOMY GENERALLY, AND LINGUISTIC ISSUES. HE STATED THAT THERE MUST BE EXPANSION OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES, A GREATLY INCREASED IN-PROVINCE PROCESSING OF PRODUCTS AND MATERIALS, AN ENTIRE REVAMPING OF THE TAXATION SYSTEM, MORE OPENESS IN GOVERNMENT, REFORM OF PARTY FINANCING, AND CREATION OF A COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORTATION POLICY.
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 HALIFA 00222 081806Z

DAIGLE SAID THERE MUST BE RECOGNITION THAT LINGUISTIC DIFFERENCES EXIST AND THAT THE CHALLENGE IS TO "BUILD A SOCIETY IN NEW BRUNSWICK SO EACH GROUP WILL BE ABLE TO DEVELOP SOCIALLY, ECONOMICALLY, AND CULTURALLY". SUCH DEVELOPMENT IS AN "EVOLUTIONARY PROCESS BUT GOVERNMENT'S ROLE IS TO FOSTER MORE UNDERSTANDING, COOPERATION, AND CHANGE OF ATTITUDES WHILE TRYING TO SEE THAT BOTH GROUPS "WILL HAVE EQUAL RIGHTS AND FULL OPPORTUNITY TO DEVELOP". HE NOTED THAT N.B. HAS AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN THE NATIONAL UNITY DEBATE BECAUSE OF THE COMPOSITION OF ITS POPULATION. HE SAID HE WANTS TO SEE QUEBEC STAY IN "THE LARGER UNIT" OF CANADA AND ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS. HE STATED THAT HE DOES NOT FAVOR POLITICAL UNION OF THE ATLANTIC PROVINCES BUT RATHER WOULD WORK TO DEVELOP MORE COOPERATION. HE EXPRESSED A STRONG INTEREST IN PARTICIPATING IN REWORKING OF THE CANADIAN CONSTITUTION.

5. COMMENT: THE LAST N.B. PROVINCIAL ELECTION WAS HELD ON NOV 18, 1974. SOME PUNDITS PREDICT THAT PREMIER HATFIELD (PC) WILL CALL AN ELECTION THIS AUTUMN. HE COULD, HOWEVER, WAIT WELL INTO 1979 IF HE BELIEVES THAT

A LATTER DATE WOULD BE TO HIS PARTY'S ADVANTAGE. HATFIELD
AND HIS PC GOVERNMENT HAVE HAD A ROCKY FOUR YEARS WITH
THE BRICKLIN AUTO FIASCO, FOLDING OF OTHER GOVT-BACKED
COMPANIES, HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT, THE GENERAL ECONOMIC
DECLINE, AND ALLEGATIONS OF GOVT CORRUPTION. HATFIELD
MAY WELL BE VULNERABLE TO A STRONG LIBERAL CHALLENGE.
WITH JOE DAIGLE NOW NAMED AS LEADER, THE LIBERALS
CAN BEGIN TO PREPARE TO TAKE ON HATFIELD AT THE POLLS.
WHETHER DAIGLE CAN UNITE THE ENGLISH AND FRENCH WINGS
OF HIS PARTY AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE APPARENT
WEAKNESS OF THE HATFIELD GOVT IS YET TO BE SEEN.
END COMMENT.

6. DRAFTER: R S AYLING
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 HALIFA 00222 081806Z

AYLING

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION RESULTS, BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978HALIFA00222
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780195-0003
Format: TEL
From: HALIFAX
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780584/aaaactgf.tel
Line Count: 137
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 10e7b4a2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2764649
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEW BRUNSWICK LIBERALS ELECT NEW PROVINCIAL LEADER
TAGS: PINT, CA, (DAIGLE, JOSEPH Z)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/10e7b4a2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014